

## Honours and Awards 2025

Each year, starting in 2023, the WAS African Chapter (WAS-AC) will recognize individuals, companies, and organizations that have made significant contributions to both the Chapter and the development of aquaculture in Africa. This recognition spans various fields, including industry development, scientific research, education, technological innovations, communications and information exchange. The recipients have enhanced our understanding of aquaculture in Africa and have positively impacted many actors in the industry by providing solutions for the advancement of sustainable aquaculture across the continent.

This year's WAS-AC HONORS AND AWARDS recipients were celebrated during the Opening Ceremony of the World Aquaculture Safari 2025 (WA25) in Uganda, which attracted over 1,800 participants from 79 countries. We applaud the role and achievements of the 2025 honorees and extend our gratitude to all WAS members, nominators, and supporters for their dedication to this program. The WAS-AC President and the Honors and Awards Committee offer their warmest congratulations to this year's honorees and awardees listed below.

### WAS-AFRICA HONORARY AWARD 2025

*The award is conferred upon an identified individual who has made a longstanding and significant contribution in the establishment and support to the Chapter's operations*

**Dr. John Walakira (UGANDA)** - WAS-AC Immediate Past President and leader in development of the Chapter; and for significant contributions to aquaculture development in Africa.

**Dr. Nelly Isyagi (UGANDA)** - One of the longest serving members of the WAS AC (since 1990s); Leader in launching and establishing the Chapter; and being its First Eastern Africa Regional Director; Renowned for continental work on developing and advancing aquatic animal health networks in Africa, through the African Union.



### AQUACULTURE INNOVATION AWARD 2025

*This award is to be presented to a WAS Member for Innovations in a specific type of Aquaculture Technology OR for contributions to develop aquaculture technology for a species*

**Dr. Melba Reantaso (PHILIPPINES & Ex-FAO)** - for developing game-changing Aquatic Biosecurity Strategies and toolkits that are well-received and being implemented in several African countries. This includes the innovative Progressive Management Pathway for Aquaculture Biosecurity (PMB/AB) which Dr Reantaso worked under FAO to develop. Dr Reantaso has just retired from FAO. We think this Award will be a small token of gratitude for all the incredible and indelible work she did in Africa.



### AQUACULTURE INDUSTRY AWARD 2025

*This award is presented to an Industry player who has given selflessly to improve aquaculture in Africa; and support to the WAS-AC; fostered collaborations with aquaculture organisations to promote best practices and innovations; publicized the importance of sustainable aquaculture development and creates business models that benefit a diverse range of aquaculture actors in Africa.*

**World Initiative for Soy in Human Health (WISHH USA-Africa)** for its unwavering support and featuring/silver sponsoring all past WAS African Chapter Conferences; and also regional events, and for working with several WAS members in aquaculture activities in Africa.



### SPECIAL CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION 2025

*This is given to a specific entity, organisation or project that provides main funding support for the organisation of an Annual Aquaculture Africa Conference.*

**Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation (LVFO)'s EU-Funded TRUEFISH Project** is the Lead Sponsor for World Aquaculture Safari 2025 Conference, UGANDA.



### SPECIAL CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION 2025

*This is given to a State entity (or relevant government Ministry) in appreciation for the role and commitment in the hosting of an Annual Aquaculture Africa Conference.*

**Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) UGANDA**, as token of appreciation for supporting the hosting of World Aquaculture Safari 2025 Conference.



### SPECIAL CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION 2025

*This is given to an individual who played a significant role in the organisation of an Annual Aquaculture Africa Conference.*

**Mr. Etienne Hinrichsen (Landell Mills)** - being Chief Organiser for WA25 Uganda; For all hard work, diligence and dedication to WAS professional services and to delivering a successfully World Conference in Uganda.



### SPECIAL CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION 2025

**GOLD SPONSOR for World Aquaculture Safari 2025, Uganda:**  
**Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)**

The GIZ's Global Programmes on "Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture" and "Sustainable Aquatic Foods", implemented on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), is committed to promote sustainable fishery management and sustainable aquaculture production in Africa

